

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /071 W

----- 118136

R 221115Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8835

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2361

E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: OVIP CH TS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRIMIN NOUIRA TO CHINA

REF: A. TUNIS 1829, B. TUNIS 2021, C. PEKING 650

1. DURING CALL ON PRIMIN NOUIRA APRIL 21, AMBASSADOR INQUIRED ABOUT PRIMIN'S IMPRESSIONS OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO CHINA. NOUIRA SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY DISCIPLINE AND INDUSTRY OF CHINESE PEOPLE, AND BY FACT THAT EVERYONE SEEMED FIT. HE, HIMSELF, FOUND ESPECIALLY INTERESTING THE CHINESE IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND SAID IT SEEMED TO HIM THERE WAS "NOT AN INCH " OF UNCLUTIVATED LAND.

2. ON INTERNATPONAL MATTERS, HE FOUND CHINESE VERY SECRETIVE. THEY RARELY REFERRED TO VIETNAM OR CAMBODIA AND THEN ONLY IN PASSING OR WHEN IT BECAME NECESSARY IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT TUNISIAN QUESTION. EVEN THEN THE ANSWERS WERE GIVEN IN SIMPLEST POSSIBLE TERMS. NOUIRA HAD FEELING THAT CHINESE PLACED VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA ALMOST IN SAME CATEGORY AS INTERNAL CHINESE MATTERS, NOT TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSED WITH OUTSIDERS. RE SOVIETS, HE SAID HE

HAD "NEVER" SEEN SUCH A HARD ATTITUDE ON PART OF ONE COUNTRY (CHINA) VIS-A-VIS ANOTHER. CONCERNING US, HE FOUND CHINESE RELATIVELY RELAXED. WHILE US WAS CRITICIZED IN STANDARD COMMUNIST JARGON AS BEING IMPERIALIST, HE SAID HE HAD FEELING THAT CHINESE WERE QUITE PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH US SO LONG AS THEIR INTERESTS WERE SAFEGUARDED. GENERALLY IN MATTERS CONCERNING OUTSIDE WORLD, HE FOUND CHINESE BE WELL-INFORMED, EVEN "TOO WELL" (HE DID NOT ELABORATE).

3. FINALLY HE NOTED THAT WHILE MAO AND CHOU EN LAI WERE AGING, REMAINDER OF LEADERSHIP HE MET SEEMED TO HIM TO BE RELATIVELY YOUNG AND VIGOROUS, MOSTLY BETWEEN 40 AND 50 YERARS OF AGE.
SEELYE

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